

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:GBHELMAN/DB

APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

PER SECTO 522

S/S:MR. EALUM

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 245527

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND THE NPG

REF: LISBON 4725

1. REFTEL REPORTS THAT IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S PERSONAL MESSAGE, COSTA GOMES HAS SAID THAT HE WILL WITHDRAW PORTUGAL FROM THE NPG AND RELATED ACTIVITIES UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PORTUGAL'S SECURITY SYSTEM MEETS NATO STANDARDS.

2. IN LIGHT OF COSTA GOMES' DECISION, YOU SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

A. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN COSTA GOMES AND THE PORTUGUESE MISSION TO NATO, YOU SHOULD BRIEF PORTUGUESE PERMREP ON COSTA GOMES' DECISION.

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B. YOU SHOULD ALSO BRIEF LUNS ON THE DECISION.

C. YOU SHOULD TELL LUNS THAT ON THE BASIS OF THAT DECISION, AND ONCE THE PORTUGUESE PERMREP HAS INFORMED NPG PERMREPS OF THE PORTUGUESE POSITION, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO RESUME FULL RANGE OF NPG WORK INCLUDING STAFF GROUP AND PERMREP MEETINGS AS WELL AS NEW TECHNOLOGY STUDY. LUNS SHOULD BE TOLD, AS WELL, THAT WE DO NOT

BELIEVE THIS TO BE A SIMPLE CASE OF SECURITY PROCEDURES BUT THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL ONE OF THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL. THEREFORE, HE SHOULD NOT GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO PORTUGUESE THAT SITUATION WILL BE CLARIFIED BY ASSURANCES OF PROCEDURES.

D. FURTHER, YOU SHOULD TELL LUNS THAT WE LOOK TO HIM TO ARRANGE FOR RESUMPTION OF NPG ACTIVITIES.

3. IF LUNS ASKS, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY THAT NPG MINISTERS (MINUS PORTUGAL) COULD MEET INFORMALLY TO ADDRESS CERTAIN NPG ISSUES WHEN THEY GATHER FOR THE DPC MINISTERIAL. WE WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH OUR FURTHER VIEWS ON THIS POSSIBILITY IN DUE COURSE AND WE WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME LUNS' VIEWS ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE245527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GBHELMAN/DB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740320-0820
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741162/aaaacaiq.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: LISBON 4725
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGAL AND THE NPG
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, PO, NATO, NPG, (GOMES, COSTA)
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005